COMMANDERS DIGEST

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U.S. Proposes to Reduce Troops in Germany by 35,000

A 35,000-man reduction of Army and Air Force troop strength in Germany next year is being proposed to NATO by the United States.

The proposal followed the recently-concluded tripartite talks among Britain, Germany and the United States on the Federal Republic's buying military equipment to help maintain allied troops in the country.

"The total of the prospective German military purchases does not match the U.S. foreign exchange expenditures in Germany for military purchases," a May 2 State Department release said.

$100 Million Annual Savings

U.S. officials estimated that almost $100 million might be saved annually in the adverse balance of payments or "gold flow" drain.

The American proposal to cut the 260,000-man all-service troop strength in Germany is expressed, however, in concrete terms, involving the stateside reassignment of four of nine Air Force tactical fighter squadrons and two Army brigades and a proportional share of the divisional support units.

Air and ground units sent home would remain committed to NATO, officials stressed, and would also reassemble annually in Germany for exercises. They also emphasized all withdrawn units would maintain a high degree of readiness.

No Moves Until January, 1968

"First movements under both plans will not take place before Jan. 1, 1968 and the plans may be in operation as soon as June 30, 1968, but in no event before the U.S. is ready to operate the systems effectively," the State Department said.

Army has designated the 24th Mechanized Infantry Div., currently in Southern Germany, as the rotational unit that will keep one brigade and support units in Germany at all times with two brigades and support elements at home. No further identification was made.

Air Force has yet to designate its units. Nine fighter squadrons now in Germany are based at Bitburg, Spangdahlem, Hahn and Ramstein.

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE—Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter III, Air University Commander, Maxwell AFB, Ala., admires the Legion of Merit which he presented to Maj. Gen. Harry J. Sands Jr. Gen. Sands was cited for outstanding achievements while Commander, Ballistics Systems Division, Norton AFB, Calif., from July 1964 to July 1966.

SecDef Issues Memorandum On Freedom of Information

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara issued a memorandum May 1 concerning "Freedom of Information." The memorandum, addressed to military department secretaries, assistant secretaries of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, directors of Defense agencies, assistants to the Secretary of Defense and the director of Defense Research and Engineering, said:

"I want to reaffirm that the public information policy of the Department of Defense demands maximum disclosure of information except for that which would be of material assistance to potential enemies. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) must take all actions necessary to implement that policy, assuring that nothing inhibits the flow of unclassified information to the American public.

"Members of our armed forces constitute an important segment of this public. They are entitled to the same unrestricted access to news as are all other citizens. Interference with this access to news will not

(Continued, Page 3)

Washington Memos

REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S naval forces have been bolstered by addition of two U.S. Navy vessels under Military Assistance Program. Former fleet minesweeper USS Report, renamed Kojin, and a high speed patrol craft (PT 812), redesignated Olpemi, were turned over to Korean National Defense Minister Sung Eun Kim by U.S. Ambassador Winthrop G. Brown.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS nominated Maj. Gen. Frank J. Sackton, Secretary, General Staff, Army CofS Office, for appointment to lieutenant general and assignment as Army Comptroller.

CONTINENTAL AIR Command's 12 Air Terminal Squadrons will be redesignated Aerial Port Squadrons on July 1, Air Force officials have announced. No change in squadron missions is anticipated with the name change. Also affected by redesignation will be active duty Military Airlift Command units.

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND has been awarded the Daedalian Flying Safety Trophy for 1966. Presentation was made at the Order of the Daedalians annual meeting late last month. In attaining the lowest major command accident rate in 1966, MAC flew the greatest number of hours and airlifted more cargo and passengers than during any previous year. Other awards were won by PACAF and TAC units.

FIRST CONTINGENT OF Royal Australian Air Force pilots, flying Martin Canberra bombers, has arrived at Phan Rang AB, RVN. Number 2 Squadron joins two other RAAF squadrons in Vietnam. In addition to providing support for Australian Army forces, the new squadron may also fly as part of the Allied combat air contribution in support of other allied ground forces.

FIELD FORCE COMMANDER in Vietnam has been named Dep CG, USCONARC. Army Lt. Gen. Stanley R. Larsen presently commands I Field Force, Vietnam.

AIR FORCE MARKSMANSHIP School, Lackland AFB, Tex., is seeking officers to fill vacancies on the school's competitive shooting teams. Prerequisite includes top-level competitive experience, backed by record scores. Applications or inquiries should be addressed to: Commander, USAF Marksmanship School, Lackland AFB, Tex. 78236.

SINCE DEC. 1, 1964, 651 men, including more than 300 aircrew members have been rescued by the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, headquartered at Tan Son Nhut AB, near Saigon.

MILITARY TRAFFIC Management and Terminal Service Deputy Commander for Operations RAdm. Elton W. Sutherling has been reassigned to Pacific Fleet Staff in Hawaii. Adm. Sutherland will assume duties of Fleet and Force Supply Officer, Commander Service Force. His replacement at MTMTS has not yet been announced.

MARINE AIRCRAFT GROUPS 12 and 36 have been awarded Navy Unit Commendation for meritorious service in Vietnam, according to Headquarters Marine Corps. MAG-12 was cited for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service" at Chu Lai from May 7, 1965 to April 15, 1966. MAG-36 was awarded commendation for services in operations against Viet Cong forces from Sept. 4, 1965 to Aug. 24, 1966.

BRITISH AIR VICE Marshal A. D. Frank, commander, Royal Air Force staff, British Embassy, Washington, and air attache to U.S., visited 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Squadron Leader David M. Goodwin, one of five RAF exchange officers assigned to 4453rd, acted as escort officer. As RAF staff commander, Marshal Frank is responsible for RAF exchange officers in U.S.

ARMY IS SEEKING some 20 E-5 through E-7 supply specialist volunteers for 13 months Vietnam duty with AID. Pay allowances are higher, in some cases, than military scales. Forward applications on DA Form 2250 by May 15 to Executive, Distribution and Control, EPD, OPO, Washington, D. C. 20315.

FORMER COMMANDANT of Air University's Institute of Technology, Maj. Gen. Cecil E. Combs, has been awarded Gen. Muir S. Fairchild Educational Achievement Award. Named after Air University's founder, award was presented to Gen. Combs for "his outstanding contributions to Air University mission of meeting Air Force and DOD requirements for advanced professional officer education in scientific, technological, managerial, medical and logistics disciplines."

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE officials have announced relocation of certain elements of Marine Corps Disbursing activities from Washington to Kansas City, Mo. Move will affect 22 military and 213 civilian billets and is expected to be completed within 10 months. Officials said relocation was prompted by Marine Corps' desire to develop a centralized and computerized manpower and disbursing system at an installation ready to handle such an application.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has announced release of $2.07 million in delivery orders to Avco Lycoming Division, Avco Corp., Stratford, Conn. Series of procurement actions provide for production and delivery of wide variety of components and spare parts required for support of T53/55 series engines which power Army's UH-1 Iroquois and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

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Defense Manpower Official Testifies on Need for Draft

Without Selective Service the nation would be hard put even to maintain pre-Vietnam force level, a DOD Manpower official told Congress April 27.

"I have personally seen no responsible study which even suggests the feasibility of maintaining the current military force of about 3.4 million without reliance upon the draft, and would consider this to be grossly unfeasible," said Dr. Harold Wool, Director for Procurement Policy and General Research.

The bulk of his testimony to the Joint Economic Committee concerned a study ordered by President Johnson in 1964 and delivered to Congress last year to determine if an "all-volunteer" force was feasible.

The study's main conclusions were summarized as follows:

- Absence of a draft would drop military strength to two million or slightly higher.
- Attempting to maintain the 2.7 million pre-Vietnam troop level on a completely voluntary basis could cost from $4 to $17 billion annually, with $8 billion the most probable estimate with a four percent unemployment rate.
- Even this outlay would not assure an adequate supply of better educated manpower for the many professional and technical specialists needed by the Armed Forces.
- Most important, the all-volunteer system would give very limited flexibility to increase military strengths even moderately within a short time period.

President Names Six Army Generals For Promotion to Three-Star Rank

President Johnson approved and forwarded for Senate confirmation April 28 names of six Army major generals for lieutenant general promotion and assignment to various positions including two field commands in Vietnam.

Maj. Gen. William B. Rosson, CofS, MACV, was named CG, I Field Force, Vietnam, and Maj. Gen. Frederick C. Weyand, Dep CG, II Field Force, Vietnam, was named CG.

Army's Deputy Asst. CofS for Force Development, Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, was named CG, Army Combat Developments Command.

Maj. Gen. Albert O. Connor, Asst. Army DCSPER, was named Army DCSPER. Maj. Gen. Harry H. Critz, CG, Army Artillery and Missile Center and Commandant, Artillery and Missile School, was named CG, I Corps Group, Korea.

Named CG, XVIII Airborne Corps, is Maj. Gen. Robert H. York, CG, Army Infantry Center and Commandant, Army Infantry School.

TROOPING THE LINE—Army Maj. Gen. Richard G. Ciccolella (right), outgoing senior member, United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) in Korea, inspects the UNC Honor Guard during ceremonies at Collier Field House in Seoul. Accompanying Gen. Ciccolella are Capt. Richard A. Slama, Honor Guard Commanding Officer (left), and Army Gen. Charles H. Bonesteel III (left-rear), Commander-in-Chief, UNC, and Air Force Maj. Gen. Marvin C. Demler (right-rear), incoming senior member, UNCMAC.

SHAPE Commander Testifies On Military Aid in Europe

NATO is making every effort to reorient its military structure without France and still provide the necessary deterrent and defense, Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer told Congress in late April.

The SHAPE commander noted, however, that France's geographical position gave the land area needed for deployment in depth and that her loss to the alliance increases NATO vulnerability to some degree.

Gen. Lemnitzer made these remarks before the House Foreign Affairs Committee April 27 when testifying on the Military Assistance program in Europe which he described as a combination of major grants and sales.

Information Memo (cont. from page 1)

be permitted. The calculated withholding of unfavorable news stories and wire service reports from troop information publications such as Stars and Stripes, or the censorship of news stories or broadcasts over such outlets as Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, is prohibited.

"The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) is directed to take all actions necessary to assure a free flow of information to our troops.

"News management and meddling with the news will not be tolerated, either in external public information or internal troop information."

Marine Platoon Sergeant Wins Medal of Honor For Heroic Sacrifice

A Marine platoon sergeant, who chose to sacrifice his life by covering a grenade in order to protect the lives of his men, became the fifth Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for action in Vietnam.

Mrs. Eleanor M. Connor, widow of SSgt. Peter S. Connor, accepted the nation's highest military award from President Johnson at ceremonies at the White House on May 2.

Sergeant Connor was platoon sergeant of the Third Platoon, "F" Co., 1st Marine Division, during a search and destroy operation in Quang Ngai Province on Feb. 25, 1966, when, in an attempt to destroy an enemy spider hole emplacement, he discovered the grenade he was holding was defective.

According to the citation, SSgt. Connor, "upon pulling the pin . . . realized that the firing mechanism was faulty, and that even as he held the safety device (the spoon) firmly in place, the fuze charge was already activated."

Determining that he could not safely throw the grenade and "manifesting extraordinary gallantry . . . he chose to hold the grenade against his body in order to absorb the terrific explosion and spare his comrades."

Air Force Revises Course For Air Traffic Controllers

The Air Force's air traffic controller training course for Army personnel has been revised to meet combat needs in Southeast Asia.

About 1,220 Army controllers are trained annually by the Air Training Command at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Army students will now be trained on Army equipment.

In the past, Army controllers were trained in the basic fundamentals of traffic control and equipment using Air Force apparatus. Once on the job they had to cross-train on the particular radar systems used by the Army.

SAM SILENCER—Ltjg. Richard Nelson, a pilot with Navy Fighter Squadron 194, was credited April 20 with putting a surface-to-air missile site out of action during a raid on two Haiphong thermal power plants. Lt. Nelson spotted the SAM site through a hole in clouds just as several missiles were fired at Seventh Fleet pilots conducting the raid and fired a number of rockets into the missile complex, destroying it.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr. Named Deputy CG, USARV

President Johnson has named Army Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr. for assignment as Deputy CG, U. S. Army, Vietnam, placing the general second in command to Gen. W. C. Westmoreland for all U. S. Army forces in Vietnam.

Gen. Palmer, a 1936 USMA graduate, presently commands II Field Force, Vietnam. Previously he served as CG, XVIII Airborne Corps and commanded U. S. troops during the Dominican Republic peacekeeping mission.

The President named Lt. Gen. Jean Engler, present Deputy CG, USARV, for assignment as Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics. Gen. Engler's previous assignments include duty as CG, U. S. Army, Japan and CG, U. S. Army Supply and Maintenance Command.

U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors Concludes Meeting

Naval Academy Superintendent RAdm. Draper L. Kauffman, his officers, faculty and staff were cited for significant improvements in the academy's academic program following a four-day meeting of the Board of Visitors last week.

Four areas which received specific attention from the Board of Visitors were the academy's master building plans; proposed plans for further civilianization of the staff; the Immediate Masters Degree Program, and a controlled experiment in computer-aided instruction.

The board re-affirmed its position that the 50/50 ratio of civilian and military faculty members should be maintained and took exception to any move that would change a substantial number of present military billets to civilians.

A close examination of the academy's five-year, $60 million building program was undertaken, and the board recommended replacement of old facilities rather than renovation. Such a move, Board Chairman Guy Stillman said, would be sound fiscal policy and would provide for future expansion.

Air Force Sergeant Named 'Economy Champ' of 1967

Inscribed in the Civil Service Commission's Hall of Economy Champs in Washington, D.C., is the name of an Air Force sergeant.

Named by the Commission as an "Economy Champ of 1967" is TSgt. Gaylyn P. Brown, 416th Armament and Electronics Maint. Sq., Griffiss AFB, N.Y.

In addition to $830 in cash awards, Sgt. Brown has received numerous letters of appreciation including one from President Johnson.

His suggestion to consolidate test equipment and relocation of a shop was estimated to have saved the Air Force more than $35,000.

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